

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3439
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT
SUBJECT: ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. A MAN DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS AN ERITREAN NAMED OSMAN SALEH
APPEARED AT THE EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 28 AND ASKED TO SEE ME. OSMAN
HANDED ME THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM AND A CARD SAYING HE WAS OSMAN
SALEH SABBE, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLES
LIBERATION FORCES OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, WITH AN
OFFICE IN DAMASCUS. SABBE SAID THE TELEGRAM HAD BEEN SENT TO
PRESIDENT CARTER. I TOLD SABBE THAT I COULD SAY NOTHING
OFFICIALLY TO HIM.

2. TEXT OF THE SABBE CABLE FOLLOWS:

QTE H.E. MR. JIMMY CARTER
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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WITH HIGHEST ESTEEM AND PROFOUND RESPECT AND GREETINGS I REQUEST
YOUR EXCELLENCY TO PERMIT ME CONVEY TO YOU THE FEELING OF DEEP
CONCERN AND ANXIETY PREVAILING OUR PEOPLE IN ERITREA DUE TO OVER-
RESTRAINED SILENCE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE JUST CASE OF
ERITREA IN TIME WHEN HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT CITIZENS OF THIS SMALL
PEACEFUL NATION ARE BEING KILLED BY SOVIET ARMS RESTIVELY POURING
INTO ETHIOPIA WITH THE PURPOSE OF DOMINATION OVER THE HORN OF

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN THEIR BITTER CONFLICT WITH THE WEST
AS OUR PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED BEFORE RUTHLESS KILLINGS BY AMERICAN
ARMS FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS AND STILL CONTINUE THROUGH ISRAEL
STOP. WE ARE SMALL PEOPLE STRUGGLING FOR OUR RIGHT TO EXIST IN
FACE OF BRUTE AGGRESSION BY A BIGGER NEIGHBOURING AFRICAN
COUNTRY AND WE DO NOT DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED MERELY FOR ASKING FOR
OUR RIGHTS STOP. ON THE GROUND OF YOUR DECLARATION TO FIGHT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS I IMPORE YOUR GOOD CONSCIENCE TO INTERVENE IN THE
ERITREAN PROBLEM SEEKING FOR A JUST SOLUTION COMPATIBLE TO UN
HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION ENSURING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL
NATIONS STOP. WHILE WE WELCOME THE STATEMENT OF US SECRETARY OF
STATE MR. CYRUS VANCE TO BRING THE PROBLEMS OF THE HORN OF
AFRICA BEFORE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WE EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT THE
ERITREAN PROBLEM IS THE CORE OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF THE AREA AND
A JUST SOLUTION FOR IT IS THE KEY FOR A COMPLETE SOLUTION IN-
CLUDING THE ETHIO-SOMALI CONFLICT AND THE PROBLEM OF THE WARRING
ETHIOPIAN NATIONALITIES STOP. U.S. IS MORALLY RESPONSIBLE
TOWARDS THE ERITREAN PROBLEM AS IT IS THE AUTHOR OF UN FEDERAL
RESOLUTION 390 OF 2/12/50 THAT JOINED ERITREA WITH ETHIOPIA IN
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP WITHOUT GIVING THE ERITREANS A CHANCE TO
DECIDE THEIR FUTURE THROUGH A PLEBISCITE AND THE RESULT WAS THE
ETHIO-ERITREAN WAR THAT HAS BEEN RAGING FOR THE LAST SIXTEEN
YEARS WITH UNRELENTING KILLING OF SEVENTY THOUSAND ERITREANS AND
MORE ETHIOPIANS AND STILL BLOOD BATH IS THE DAILY ROUTINE ACTION STOP

IT IS COMPLETELY UNJUST AND UNPRACTICAL TO ASK THE ERITREAN PEOPLE
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TO GO BACK TO A FEDERATION THAT BROUGHT SO MUCH MISERIES AFTER
THE ERITREANS LIBERATED THROUGH THEIR BLOOD 90 PERCENT OF THEIR
MOTHERLAND STOP. ALL WE ARE ASKING FOR TODAY IS THE US TOGETHER
WITH USSR AS TWO SUPER POWERS TO FIND OUT AN INTERNATIONAL JUST
SOLUTION FOR THE ERITREAN PROBLEM COMPATIBLE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS
OF THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE GIVING AT THE
SAME TIME WIDEST POSSIBLE FACILITIES FOR ETHIOPIA IN THE
ERITREAN PORTS ACCORDING TO BILATERAL OR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS
STOP. WE ARE NOT AFTER ALL AGAINST THE COMMON ECONOMIC,
COMMERCIAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS BETWEEN ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA AS
TWO SOVEREIGN AFRICAN STATES STOP. WE REQUEST THAT AN ERITREAN
DELEGATION BE PRESENT AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES THE
ERITREAN QUESTION WHICH IS AN INTERNATIONAL QUESTION AND NOT AN
INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN AFFAIRS ACCORDING TO UN FEDERAL RESOLUTION
THAT WAS ABOLISHED BY ETHIOPIA IN 1962 IN CHALLENGE TO THE
RESOLUTION STOP. WE WELCOME UN SPOT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE
SITUATION IN ERITREA AS WE WELCOME UN SPONSORED FREE PLEBISCITE
STOP. WE HOPE THE PRETEXT OF KEEPING AWAY DISINTEGRATION FROM THE
ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE WILL NOT BE USED AS JUSTIFICATION TO DEPRIVE

ERITREA OF HER POLITICAL RIGHTS AS MAN'S EXPERIENCES PROVE THAT NO

UNITY OF AN ENTITY CAN BE PRESERVED BY JUST BRUTE FORCE AND AGAINST
THE DESIRES OF THE POEPLS CONCERNED STOP. MANY UNIONS DISJOINED
SUCH AS SYRIA EGYPT UNION, THE FEDERATION OF MALI, BANGLADESH AND
PAKISTAN AND SO ON WHEN IT BECAME THE PEOPLES DESIRE STOP.
CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT STRUGGLE WILL LEAD INTO MORE
DISINTEGRATION OF THE ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE AND INTO MORE RUSSIN
INTERVENTION TO DOMINATE NOT THE HORN OF AFRICA BUT ALSO THREATEN
THE OIL RICH COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA AS A
WHOLE AND ULTIMATELY THREATEN WORLD PEACE STOP. WE SUPPORT THE
RIGHTS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE OGADEN PEOPLE WHO ARE
PURELY SOMALIS AND NOT ETHIOPIANS AND WERE ONLY CONQUERED SOME
NINETY YEARS AGO WITH DUE RESPECT AND ARDENT REGARDS. SOMAN SALEH
SABBE, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION
FRONT. END TEXT. UNQTE.
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KILLGORE

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